Defence production park in Kerala

1103. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI A.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala has proposed a few places to set up an exclusive defence production park in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the decision taken on the above proposal;

(c) the details of defence component market to be set up, if any;

(d) the details of proposals submitted by various States for initiating defence component market if any, State-wise, category-wise, as on date; and

(e) the details of defence components market to be set up, if any, State-wise and category-wise, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Minister of Industries, Government of Kerala has made a request asking various Defence Organisations to identify suitable projects for manufacturing in hi-tech areas, by setting up a Defence Production Park, in Kerala state.

(b) Presently there is no plan to set up a Defence Production Park in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No proposal has been submitted by any state government to set up defence component market.

(e) Does not arise.

Joint Development of fighters with Moscow

1104. SHRI D.RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiating with Moscow for joint development and joint investment in fifth generation fighters for Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a high level team from US Defence Major Lockheed Martin met top officials of Indian Air Force to convey their willingness to transfer high technology weaponry to India including its 5th generation joint strike fighter F-35; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

SHRI MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Co-development of a Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) has been identified as an important area of co-operation between the Indian and Russian Government. Technical discussions to work out the details are in progress. Efforts are on for finalizing the draft Inter Governmental Agreement in this regard.

(c) US Government has not proposed to provide a fifth generation fighter F-35 aircraft to India.

(d) Does not arise.

JV with Israel for production of missiles

1105. SHRI D.RAJA:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided on a joint venture with Israel for the production of missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the general opinion in the country is against any military tie ups with Israel which will annoy the Muslim countries who share friendly relations with India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has earlier entered into a contract with M/s Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Israel to jointly develop a Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) system for the Indian and Israeli Navy in January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Government of India pursues bilateral cooperation with Israel in many fields, keeping in mind our national interests. Cooperation in the field of defence is one of the many dimensions of bilateral cooperation. This is based on our sole national interest and does not come in the way of the warm and mutually beneficial cooperation that we share with friendly Muslim countries.

Voluntary retirement by defence personnel

1106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel in Defence Services who have sought for voluntary retirement during the last three years, force-wise;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken in this regard;.

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of officers who sought discharge during the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	435	119	249
2005	536	176	308
2006	811	259	230